

HERITAGE

Monthly news update from the Office of History and Archaeology
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
August 2015

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Federal legislation and funding for historic preservation programs

Alaska Historic Preservation Conference October 20-22

Alaska Historical Commission updates

2015 endangered historic properties list in Alaska announced

History and museum groups to meet in Cordova

Preservation Action's new leadership

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation upcoming webinars

National Historic Preservation Act turns 50

Oscar Anderson House in Anchorage open this summer

Public project alerts

Heritage subscription information

Preservation calendar

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Federal legislation and funding for historic preservation programs

Congressional authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund expires September 30, 2015. Created by Congress in 1966, the HPF provides funding to State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Certified Local Governments to carry out the federal historic preservation programs. The HPF is funded from outer continental shelf leases not taxpayer dollars. The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and its preservation partners are asking for permanent reauthorization of the HPF and full funding at \$150 million a year (the current appropriation is \$56.4 million, less than half that amount).

Representatives Michael Turner (R-OH) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced the National Historic Preservation Amendment Act of 2015 (H.R. 2817) to reauthorize the HPF. The bill would extend the HPF for 10 years, through 2025, at the current authorized level of \$150 million annually. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Energy Policy Modernization Act, a comprehensive energy package that includes permanent authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and creates a \$150 million annual National Park Service maintenance fund. The money for all of these programs would be from outer continental shelf leases. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the bill last week.

It is important to let Alaska's congressional delegation know of the importance of historic preservation programs and the need for full funding of the Historic Preservation Fund to preserve and protect Alaska's historic properties.

President Obama's proposed budget for FY 16 (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016) has \$89.1 million for the Historic Preservation Fund, a significant increase over the FY 15 appropriation of \$56.4 million. The budget proposes \$46.9 million for state programs (same as FY 15), \$10 million for tribal programs (\$1 million increase), \$500,000 for the underrepresented grant program (same as FY 15), and two new programs: \$30.5 million for a grant program related to the civil rights movement, and \$2.5 million for historically Black colleges & universities to preserve civil rights movement resources. The administration's proposed budget reduces funding for National Heritage Areas, funded under the Recreation and Preservation Account, by fifty percent to \$10.0 million.

The House Interior Appropriations Committee made its FY 16 budget recommendations. The recommendations are \$60.91 million for Historic Preservation Fund programs--\$48.925 million for SHPOs, \$8.985 million for THPOs, and \$500 thousand for underrepresented grants, all the same as last year. The committee added \$4.5 million for civil rights grants. For other preservation programs, the committee recommended \$19.671 for National Heritage Areas, and \$6.08 million for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The Senate Interior Appropriates Committee made its FY 16 budget recommendations as well. The committee recommended \$55.91 million for SHPOs and THPOs (same as FY 15 enacted levels), \$500 thousand for underrepresented grants, and \$5 million for civil rights movement grants. The committee recommended level funding for the National Heritage Areas at \$20.321 million, a little more than the House proposal, and level funding for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at just over \$6 million.

The House passed the National Defense Authorization Act with Section 2853 that allows heads of federal agencies to block or revoke National Register nominations for reasons of national security and calls for the National Park Service to create an expedited de-listing process. The Senate Armed Services subcommittee did not include the section in its mark-up of its companion NDAA bill that has been sent to the full committee to act on and send to the full Senate for a vote. The Administration's Statement of Administrative Policy (SAP) on the bill objects to the provision.

The Senate passed a road, rail and transit funding bill, HR 22, referred to as the DRIVE Act, last week. The bill has a section disturbing to historic preservationists, Section 11116 that would eliminate Section 4(f) and essentially replace it with Section 106. Stephanie Meeks, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, wrote an editorial in *The Hill* urging retention of the existing Section 4(f) program: <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/249489-the-drive-act-throws-history-out-the-window>.

Alaska Historic Preservation Conference October 20-22

The Office of History and Archaeology is hosting an Alaska Historic Preservation Conference in Anchorage, October 20-22, 2015. Donovan Rypkema, a recognized leader in the economics of historic preservation, will give a keynote address Tuesday the 20th and elaborate on his comments in sessions on Wednesday the 21st. Since 1983, Rypkema has consulted with public and non-profit sector clients on downtown and neighborhood commercial district revitalization and reuse of historic structures. In 2012 the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded him its Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award.

The conference is for local government planning staff, historic preservation commissions, elected officials, planning commissions, and historic preservation practitioners. The second day will address local historic preservation programs. A local government specialist from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will address commission procedures, and other conference sessions will include presentations about Alaska's local government preservation programs, preservation incentives, and heritage tourism.

An agenda is available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/misc/ahpconfagenda2015.pdf>. Registration information will be available by August 15. For more information about the conference contact Summer Rickman (907.269.8717 / summer.rickman@alaska.gov),

Alaska Historical Commission updates

As part of his duties Lt. Governor Byron Mallott serves as chair of the Alaska Historical Commission. The Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska invited him to attend their annual meetings and conference to be held at Cordova in late September. He has accepted the invitation, and will be giving a talk Friday, October 2nd to those attending. Under his leadership, the Alaska Historical Commission has been discussing how to involve all Alaskans in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Alaska purchase in 2017. Ideas are being sought and the commemoration will be addressed at the next meeting of the Alaska Historical Commission, scheduled for December 8, 2015 in Anchorage. Detailed information on the Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska meetings is available at www.cordova2015.org.

2015 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties in Alaska announced

The Alaska Association for Historic Preservation's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties for 2015 are:

Kake Cannery, Kake

Igloo Hotel, Cantwell vicinity
Hi-yu Mine, Fairbanks vicinity
Ole Dahl Cabin #1, Talkeetna
Historic Old Bering Hill Chapel, Adak
Alaska Railroad Montana Station Water Tower, Montana Creek
4th Avenue Theatre, Anchorage
Dexter Roadhouse, Golovin
Buckner Building, Whittier
Ipiutak Archaeological District, Point Hope

The threats to these properties range from demolition, to neglect, to leaking roofs and unstable foundations. The AAHP provides small grants for several properties on the list to start fund raising campaigns or collect information on a building's condition and preservation needs. To learn more and to donate to help any of the properties contact Allegra Hamer, 907.929.9870 / akpreservation@gmail.com or go to www.aahp-online.net.

History and museum groups to meet in Cordova

Preservation Action's new leadership

Preservation Action, the national non-profit organization that advocates for historic preservation, announced that Russ Carnahan and Debra Carnahan will lead the organization. Russ Carnahan represented the St. Louis, Missouri region in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a congressman, he chaired the bi-partisan Historic Preservation Caucus. As a state legislator, he championed Missouri's state historic tax credit. Debra Carnahan is a former state and federal prosecutor and judge. In St. Louis she presided over a Problem Property Court that enforced laws to maintain and restore properties and historic buildings, and served on the board of directors of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. More information about the organization and its programs is at www.preservationaction.org

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation upcoming webinar

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has scheduled its Defining the Area of Potential Effects webinar for September 22; to repeat on September 30, 2015. Additional information about the webinar and to register is available at www.achp.gov/sec106webinar.html.

National Historic Preservation Act turns 50

Historic preservationists have started *Preservation50: Our Legacy, Our Future*, a nationwide group to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. The mission is to honor and raise awareness of the public value of historic preservation and to unify, diversify, and grow the preservation community to continue it for the next fifty years. Partners and collaborators include private sector leaders in preservation, public agencies, and national, tribal, state, and local preservation organizations. To join the planning discussion, take a national survey, find and publicize events, download the six Preservation50 logos, and get other tools, go to www.preservation50.org.

The Society for American Archaeology, the Society for Historic Archaeology, the Archaeology Channel, and the organization of registered professional archaeologists are planning to produce an interactive map supplemented by short videos as a 50th anniversary project. Burr Neely, Northern Land Use Research, is the Alaska coordinator for the Making Archaeology Public (MAP) project and is working with the Alaska Anthropological Association's Public Education Group, Jenny Blanchard, Chair. To suggest sites to include, volunteer to provide content, or to get more information contact 907.474.9684 / bjn@northernlanduse.com.

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PUBLIC PROJECT ALERTS:

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities / Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project (Quartz Creek Road to Skilak Lake Road in the Cooper Landing area), draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

Project information: www.sterlinghighway.net

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities / West Susitna Surface Access Reconnaissance Study

Project information: <http://dot.alaska.gov/roadstoresources/westsusitna/index.shtml>

Bureau of Land Management Bering Sea – Western Interior Resource Management Plan

Project information: www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi

Contact: 907.267.1246 / 800.478.1263

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission / Alaska Energy Authority, Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project

Project information: www.susitna-watanahydro.org/

U.S. Forest Service / Chugach National Forest Plan

Plan revision: fs.usda.gov/chugach / Land and Resource Management

Comments: chugachplanrevision@fs.fed.us

U.S. Forest Service / Tongass National Forest Sustainable Cabin Management Project

Environmental Assessment: <http://go.usa.gov/WQEk>

Contact: Victoria Houser, 907.826.1614 / vhouser@fs.fed.us

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HERITAGE SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Heritage is produced by the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Please send your comments, suggestions,

and information by e-mail to jo.antonson@alaska.gov, mail to 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, or telephone 907.269.8721.

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PRESERVATION CALENDAR:

August 12 (same course August 19) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation webinar: Cultural Landscapes: Identification and Effects Assessment (webinar@achp.gov)

September 10-12 Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums, 2015 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, Washington, DC (ATALM, www.atalm.org)

September 14 National Park Service, Shared Beringian Heritage Program project proposal deadline (Katerina Wessels, 907.644.3602 / katerina_wessels@nps.gov)

September 16-20 American Association for State and Local History, annual meeting: The Power of Possibility, Louisville, KY (Bob Beatty, 635.320.3203 / beatty@aaslh.org)

September 22 (same course September 30) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation webinar: Defining the Area of Potential Effects (webinar@achp.gov)

September 30-October 3 Alaska Historical Society / Museums Alaska annual meetings: Trade Routes and Crossroads in the North Pacific and Joining Forces: Communities and Collaboration, Cordova (Mimi Briggs, 907.424.6665 / mbriggs@cordovamuseum.org)

October 14-15 National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office, Maritime Cultural Landscape Symposium, Madison, WI (Daina Penkiunas, 608.264.6511 / daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org, <http://wihist.org/maritime-symposium>)

October 20-22 Office of History and Archaeology: Historic Preservation Conference and Certified Local Government training, Anchorage (Summer Rickman, 907.269.8717 / summer.rickman@alaska.gov)

October 20-21 CyArk 2015 summit: Resilience through Innovation, Berlin, Germany (Makenna Murray, 510.832.5440 / www.CyArk.org)

October 28-November 1 Wooshteen Kanax̓tulaneeḡí Haa At Wuskóowu / Sharing Our Knowledge: Haa saaxú, haa latseení / Our Names, Our Strength; A Conference of Tlingit Tribes and Clans, Juneau (clanconference@gmail.com / clanconference.org)

November 2-5 Urban Archaeology of Vienna: 20th International Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies, Vienna, Austria (Wolfgang Borner, 43.01.4000.81176 / wolfgang.boerner@stadarchaeologie.at)

November 3-6 National Trust for Historic Preservation: PastForward 2015, Washington, DC (NTHP, 202-588.6100 / conference@savingplaces.org)

December 8 Alaska Historical Commission meeting, Anchorage (Jo Antonson, 907.269.8714 / jo.antonson@alaska.gov)

2016

February 2 National Preservation Institute: NAGPRA Essentials, Anchorage (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / info@npi.org)

February 3-4 National Preservation Institute: NAGPRA: Preparing for and Writing Grant Proposals, Anchorage (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / info@npi.org)

March 16 National Council on Public History and Society for History in the Federal Government annual meeting: On the Edge of 2016: Commemorating the Past and Shaping the Future of Federal Preservation Activities, Baltimore, MD (Barbara Little, barbara_little@nps.gov or <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/working-groups/>)

March 19-20 Goucher College, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and National Park Service, 7th National Forum on Historic Preservation Practice: A Critical Examination of the Next 50 Years, Baltimore, MD (Richard Wagner, rwagner@goucher.edu)

April 21-22 Alaska Office of History and Archaeology workshop, Anchorage (Mark Rollins, 907.269.8722 / mark.rollins@alaska.gov)

April 26-27 National Preservation Institute: GIS: Practical Applications for Cultural Resource Projects, Anchorage (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / info@npi.org)

May 9-12 Yukon Historical and Museum Association, International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, University of Saskatchewan, and Yukon College: The North and the First World War Conference, Whitehorse, YT (conference@heritageyukon.ca / www.heritageyukon.ca)

May 9-10 National Preservation Institute: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards: Treatment Considerations, Anchorage (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / info@npi.org)

May 12-13 National Preservation Institute: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards: Treatment Considerations, Sitka (Jere Gibber, 703.765.0100 / info@npi.org)

July National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum, Mobile, AL (NAPC, 706.369.5881 / napc@uga.edu)